

Testimony on S.B. 411
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- Mr. Chairman/Madam Chair (depending upon male/female), members of the committee, for the record, my name is Tom Tassone, and I am the Director of Health Plans for the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, here today in strong support of S.B. 411
- The Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) is a private, non-profit organization that was formed in 1979.
- AAAHC currently accredits almost 6,000 organizations in a wide variety of ambulatory health care settings including ambulatory surgery centers, community health centers, medical and dental group practices, medical home practices, and managed care organizations, as well as Indian and student health centers.
- The AAAHC is also the official accrediting organization for the US Air Force, and the US Coast Guard.
- While the AAAHC accredits over 50 health care organizations in Connecticut, the AAAHC is not listed in Connecticut's statute as an organization that can accredit "managed care organizations". A designation that is required in Connecticut to be able to accredit these organizations.
- It is my understanding that this omission was not in any way deliberate. Rather, it was simply that, when the statute was adopted, the AAAHC didn't reach out to the legislature to mention that the Association should be included.
- As the largest ambulatory health care accrediting organization in the country, the AAAHC appreciates the Committee's introduction of S.B. 411, so we can join Connecticut's existing list of organizations that can accredit "managed care organizations".
- The AAAHC identified 7 states this summer where the AAAHC needed to be added to the state's statute. Of these, I have a letter that I can pass out from Arizona that was sent to us explaining that their Director of Insurance was able to recognize the AAAHC as having a "nationally recognized accreditation process" without needing legislation (as their statute gives the Director the ability to recognize additional accrediting organizations). Additionally, bills have either been introduced or are being introduced in all six other states, just like here in Connecticut, to add the AAAHC to those states' statutes.

- In each of these states, we have not run into any opposition, and see the addition of the AAAHC as more of a technical fix.
- By adding the AAAHC to the state's statute, managed care organizations that are required to be accredited in Connecticut will have an additional accreditation option, and could continue to choose the option that best fits their organization.
- ...and I would note that these organizations already have the option to be accredited by the AAAHC in many other states. So, this legislation would not be trying anything new. It would simply allow these organizations to have the same option in Connecticut that they already have in other states.
- Thank you for your time and consideration. ...And with that I would be happy to answer any questions.



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GERMAINE L. MARKS
Director

November 13, 2014

Tom Tassone
Director of Health Plans
Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc.
5250 Old Orchard Road, Suite 200
Skokie, IL 60077

Dear Mr. Tassone:

Thank you for your October 30, 2014 letter seeking approval of the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. (AAAHC) as a "nationally recognized accreditation process" pursuant to ARS §20-2510(A)(2). AAAHC provided thorough and substantial documentation regarding its processes and standards, and participated in a conference with key Department of Insurance personnel to discuss our regulatory process.

After careful consideration of all relevant factors and pursuant to ARS §20-2510(A)(2), I have determined that AAAHC is a nationally recognized accreditation process.

Sincerely,


Germaine L. Marks
Director

cc: Erin Klug
Dr. Linda Beguin